

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CONNAH'S QUAY.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of
Health and Sanitary Inspector.

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1954

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Public Health Department.
24th October, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CONNAH'S QUAY.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the Connah's Quay Urban District for the year 1954.

The estimated population for mid-year 1954 is 7350 an increase of 22 from the figure for 1953. The birth and death rates are based on the estimated mid-year population.

The total number of births during 1954 was 130, the same as in 1953, which gives us a birth rate of 17.5 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 17.7 in 1953 and a rate for England and Wales of 15.2 for the year under review.

The total number of deaths during the year was 73 as compared with 60 in 1953, which gives a death rate of 9.9 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 8.2 for the district in 1953, and a rate of 11.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales for the year under review.

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 15.4 per 1,000 live births, which is lower than the rate for England and Wales, which is 25.5 and is a decrease on that for the district in 1953, when it was 23.1 per 1,000 live births.

The principal cause of death was disease of the heart and circulatory system. Of the 73 deaths during the year 41 occurred from disease of the heart and circulatory system, i.e. 56.7 per cent of all deaths. Cancer accounted for 13 deaths, i.e. 17.8 per cent of all deaths. Bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases accounted for 3 deaths, i.e. 4.1 per cent of all deaths, so that these three main groups of diseases, i.e. disease of the heart and circulatory system, cancer and respiratory infections accounted for 78.1 per cent.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis, compared with a death rate for England and Wales of 0.16 per 1,000 of the population.

Again there were no deaths from diphtheria. With regard to infectious diseases there were 3 cases of scarlet fever as compared with 8 in 1953. There were no deaths and no serious complications from these cases of scarlet fever. There was a slight increase in the number of cases of whooping cough notified, there being 7 cases as compared with 5 in 1953, and a decrease in the cases of measles - 7 as compared with 46 in 1953. During the year there was a decrease in the number of fresh cases of tuberculosis notified, 6 cases being notified during the year as compared with 15 in 1953.

The milk, icecream and water samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

To conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen, I must thank all members of your Health Committee for their continued support, and in particular your Chairman, Councillor M. Thomas, who was particularly helpful during the year. I should also like to thank your Clerk, Mr. L. Williams, and indeed all your officials, who gave me their continued and willing help during the year.

Your new Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. Stoddard, has since July, 1954 ably replaced your former Sanitary Inspector and I am grateful to him for his help during the latter half of the year.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) A. CATHCART.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area.	4,218 acres.
Population.	7,350
Rateable Value.	£92,471
Product of penny Rate.	£367

Social Conditions.

The Urban District of Connah's Quay is on the Southwest bank of the River Dee.

The climate is temperate in all seasons, making the winter somewhat/mild and giving the district a healthy aspect.

There is very little unemployment in the district.

Vital Statistics.

		<u>1951.</u>			<u>1952.</u>			<u>1953.</u>			<u>1954.</u>	
		M	F		M	F		M	F		M	F
Live Births	129			128			130			130		
Legitimate.	127	72	75	120	67	53	120	67	53	125	63	62
Illegitimate.	2	2	-	8	6	2	10	2	8	5	1	4

Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population.

Connah's Quay.	17.6	17.4	17.7	17.5
England & Wales.	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2

Still Births.

Rate per 1,000 Population.

Connah's Quay.	.27	.53	.96	.35
England & Wales.	.36	.35	.35	.36

Death of Infants under One Year.

Rate per 1,000 Live Births.

Connah's Quay.	15.5	15.6	23.1	15.4
England & Wales.	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5

Deaths from all Causes.

Total	85	65	60	73
Connah's Quay.	11.6	8.8	8.2	9.9
England & Wales.	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CRUDE BIRTH RATES.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Connah's Quay.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
1943	23.5	16.5
1944	23.1	17.6
1945	24.6	16.1
1946	-	19.1
1948	23.4	17.9
1949	20.6	16.7
1950	20.2	15.8
1951	17.6	15.5
1952	17.4	15.3
1953	17.7	15.5
1954	17.5	15.2

The adjusted birth rate being 16.6

DEATHS.

	M	F	Total.
Number of Deaths from all Causes.	34	39	73
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis.	--	--	--
Other Puerperal Causes.	--	--	--
Deaths from Cancer. (All Ages).	5	8	13
Deaths from Measles. (All Ages).	--	--	--
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All Ages).	--	--	--

Comparative Table of Crude Deaths.

Year.	Connah's Quay.	England & Wales.
1942	8.6	11.6
1943	7.1	12.1
1944	7.2	11.6
1945	9.4	11.4
1946	8.5	11.5
1947	-	12.0
1948	8.7	10.8
1949	8.3	11.7
1950	8.3	11.6
1951	11.6	12.5
1952	8.8.	11.3
1953	8.2	11.4
1954	9.9	11.3

The adjusted death rate being 12.6

DEATHS 1954.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Other.	-	-	-
Syphilitic.	1	-	1
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	2	4
" " Lung, bronchus.	2	3	5
" " breast.	-	2	2
" " uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	1	-	1
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.-	1	-	1.
Diabetic.	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	9	13
Coronary disease, angina.	6	4	10
	—	—	—
Carried Forward.	17	21	38

DEATHS 1954 (CONTINUED).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Brought forward	17	21	38
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	-	2
Other heart disease.	4	6	10
Other circulatory disease.	4	2	6
Influenza.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	1	1
Bronchitis.	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	1	1
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea.	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	2	2
Congenital malformations.	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	4	5
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1	2
All other accidents.	-	-	-
Suicide.	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
	—	—	—
All causes.	34	39	73

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services in
the Area.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health. A. Cathcart, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
D.T.M. & HY.

Sanitary Inspector. C. Stoddard, M.S.I.A.
(appointed 1st July, 1954.)

Qualifications: (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the
S.I.E.J.B.
(b) Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate for
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health
for Buckley U.D.C., Hawarden R.D.C. and Overton R.D.C., and is also
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

The Sanitary Inspector is full-time and is responsible for the supervision of Refuse Collection and Salvage, work under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, Pot Animals Act, and is responsible for inspections under Factories Act, 1937 which includes Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Clerical.

The conditions are similar as those mentioned in the Annual Report for 1952, the Sanitary Inspector keeping routine continuity of the Department.

Laboratory Facilities.

- (1) Public Health Laboratory Service, Conway.
- (2) Royal Infirmary, Chester.
- (3) Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead.

Nursing in Home.

The nursing of non-infectious sick is carried out by the District Nursing Association and home help is provided in the district.

Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly at the Drill Hall, Connah's Quay.

Hospitals.

- (1) The Liverpool Hospital Regional Board (which includes Chester).
- (2) Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

WATER.

Present Supply and Description of Works.

The district is supplied with water from two sources, the greater part comes from tappings on the Birkenhead Aqueduct, and is passed directly to the district. The remainder of the water is taken from the Council's own Gathering-ground at the Waterworks.

The Waterworks comprise wooded under-drained Gathering ground of some 12 acres in extent, from which a main drain conveys water to a chemical house and coagulation tanks. From these tanks, water passes into two storage reservoirs of 100,000 and 250,000 gallons capacity respectively, and is pumped through two pressure filters and base exchange type softener to a treated water storage tank of 100,000 gallons capacity; the filtered water is chlorinated on route from the softener to the storage tank.

Quantity.

109,212,000 gallons were supplied to the district; of this quantity 64,906,000 were from the Birkenhead Aqueduct and 44,308,000 from the Council's own Gathering-ground.

Quality.

24 samples were taken during the year and these were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage is turned untreated from various outfalls into the River Dee and at present a Consulting Engineer is preparing a Sewerage Disposal Scheme for the whole area.

River and Streams.

The outlets of two streams into the river are contiguous with the outlets of the sewerage and at high tide this causes back flooding of the streams with a consequent deposit.

Public Cleansing.

Public Cleansing is carried out satisfactorily.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This service is carried out by one Refuse Vehicle and 6 men, which includes the driver who assists in the Collection.

The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on a centrally situated site. Insecticides are used for the control of insects. The attendance to the tip is carried out by a man employed as a tip attendant and rodent operator.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Some observations and visits were made concerning excessive emission of smoke from factories and this excess was^{not} due to defective structure for combustion, but chiefly to method of feeding.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths and pools in the area. Open air bathing takes place in the River Dee and during the summer months, beach guards are appointed during school holidays. The nearest indoor swimming baths are 5 miles away.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year rodent control measures were carried out by a man employed jointly as rodent operator and tip attendant, and following work was carried out during 1954.

Premise inspected.	608
Premises found infested by rats or mice.	180
Premises treated by Local Authority.	180
Total Treatments carried out including Retreatments.	214

SECTION D.

EXISTING HOUSES.

Routine detailed inspections under the provisions of Housing Act were not made, though detailed inspections of some houses were made and it appeared that these houses could not be made fit at a reasonable cost. Further there are many houses in the district below standard and by their condition and siting there appears no alternative but consideration for demolition.

HOUSING.

During the year 47 houses on the Red Hall Estate were completed and occupied.

Number of Houses built by Private Enterprise. 38.

The Council have a points scheme and at the end of the year, total number of applications was 177. Of this total 45% of applicants had some degree of overcrowding in present living conditions, and the remainder of the applications concerned applicants living in rooms or with parents or living in sub-standard dwellings and desirous of better environments.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 Art 31

Action was taken under the Housing Acts as follows:

(1)	Number of houses which on inspection were considered unfit for human habitation:	8
(2)	The number of houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers:	48
(3)	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :-	
	(a) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works:	9
	(b) The making of demolition or closing orders:	8
(4)	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works:	9
(5)	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	9
(6)	The number of demolition or closing orders made:	8
(7)	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of section 11 of the Housing Act 1936:	-
(8)	The number of houses demolished:	-

STATUTORY ACTION:

(a) Public Health Acts.

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i) by owners.	1
(ii) by Local Authority in default of owners.	-
Visits made to houses under Public Health Acts:	274

(b) Housing Act 1936.

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections, 9, 10, 11, & 16).	
(i) by owners.	2
(ii) by Local Authority in default of owners.	7
Houses inspected under Housing Act 1936:	67
Houses inspected re applications for rehousing:	105

SECTION E.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases Generally.

Scarlet Fever cases are isolated at home, where satisfactory isolation is obtained, other cases are sent to hospital. Premises where infections have occurred were disinfected.

Bedding from deceased cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was destroyed, payments being made to owners.

Notifications. (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1954.

Measles.	7
Scarlet Fever.	3
Whooping Cough.	7

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified:

<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
4	2	6

SECTION F.

FOOD SUPERVISION.

The work which was carried out in 1953 was based on the application of the principles laid down in the recommendation of the Council in 1951, and much improvement was noticed, chiefly in the exhibiting of food in the shops and in the prevention of contamination by the public.

Meat Inspection.

(a) Prior to the appointment of the Council's present Sanitary Inspector on 1st July, 1954, meat inspection was carried out by Inspectors from a neighbouring authority and all animals slaughtered were inspected.

Details of meat condemned at Ministry of Food Abattoir before decontrol of slaughtering in July, 1954.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
<u>Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcasses	7	1	Nil	3
<u>Diseases other than Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcasses	Nil	Nil	2	1

Total weight of carcasses and offal condemned: 4 tons 1 cwt.

(b) On the decontrol of slaughtering, three slaughter houses were licensed, of these, two slaughter houses are small premises handling the requirements of the occupiers, and the other slaughter house is operated by a wholesale supply company which supplies meat in the Deeside area, and part of Cheshire. Most of the slaughtering is carried out in the late afternoon and evening on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Sunday mornings and afternoons. To carry out an efficient inspection of this meat it has been necessary for the inspection to be made outside normal hours, and 181 hours overtime have been worked during the period 1st July to 31st December, 1954.

Number of animals Slaughtered from 1st July to 31st December, 1954.

Cattle	776
Calves	47
Sheep and Lambs	11,174
Pigs	1,285
<u>Total Animals:</u>	<u>13,282</u>

Total weight of meat and offal condemned: 30½ cwts.

Other Foodstuffs condemned.

26 tins & containers of food weighing:

135 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

SHELLFISH (Molluscan)

There are no shellfish beds in the area.

Ice Cream.

30 samples of Ice Cream, Ice Lollies and Ice Cream Powder were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service and reported on as follows:-

Ice Cream.

Grade I	18
II	3
III	-
IV	1

Ice Lollies.

Satisfactory	5
Non faecal B. coli present.	2

Ice Cream Powder.

Satisfactory	1
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Summary of visits made by Sanitary Inspector.

Dwelling Houses:	
Complaints.	274
Inspection under Housing Acts.	67
Housing Applications.	105
Infectious Diseases.	12
Slaughter-houses.	326
Refuse. Collection and disposal.	163
Rodent Control.	177
Factories.	18
Moveable Dwellings.	17
Butchers Shops.	30
Ice Cream Premises.	23
Bake-houses.	3
Cafes.	14
Licensed Premises.	5
Other Food Shops and Premises.	12
Schools.	3
Miscellaneous Visits and Interviews.	73
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1,322

